

South Burlington School District
May 28, 2010

To: School Board Members
From: John Everitt

Re: Superintendent Report – June 2, 2010
Policy 2.9 – Communication and Support to the Board

1. VSBA Fall Regional Meeting – The meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 22, 2010 at Winooski High School. This may be an opportunity to follow up on ideas generated at the June 29 summit. The meeting will begin at 5:00 pm with a light dinner (for those who have preregistered). There is no charge for this event. You may register between now and September 17th by visiting: <http://www.vtvsba.org/mtgform.html>. If you have any questions, please contact John Nelson at VSBA.

2. Residential Tax Rate – Because Vermont school districts kept state education spending virtually level for 2010-11 and because of Legislative changes made to income sensitivity, the Legislature decided to keep the residential and non-residential tax rates the same for 2010-11 as it is this year, 86¢ and \$1.35 respectively. The Governor is expected to sign this bill into law in the near future. Our budget for next year draws \$950,000 less from the state education fund than this year.

When the 2010-11 budget was proposed to South Burlington residents, the anticipated increase in the tax rate was two tenths of a penny. This reduction by the Legislature makes the change from this year to next year a three and one-third penny reduction. Residential tax payers will pay \$33 less per \$100,000 of homestead value than they paid this year.

3. Race to the Top – The U.S. Department of Education has begun changing the way it supports schools moving away from awarding funds based on population and other factors such as poverty and toward competition for funds by states and school districts. Vermont educational leaders have voiced opposition to this move to our congressional delegation. The belief is that small and rural states will not have the capacity to compete for such grants on an equal basis with other states and that the design of the grants would frequently not match the needs of rural school systems. Vermont withdrew from the Race to the Top because the requirements of the grant would not actually help Vermont schools improve.

Vermont did apply for a recent federal grant for a State Longitudinal Data Systems. This would have standardized data collection and data management across the state. The state did not receive one of the twenty grants awarded. Our school district has held off upgrading our own information management system in anticipation of a statewide system. We will now need to reexamine our position on this matter.

Please bring your policy manual to the board meeting.